

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 137752
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 ONY-00 /032 R

DRAFTED BY T - STEVE LEDOGAR:SL
APPROVED BY T - LUCY WILSON BENSON
EUR/WE - JLIMPRECHT
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
EUR, PM, T ONLY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 137752

FOR AMBASSADOR ONLY FROM BENSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SP, OVIP (BENSON, LUCY WILSON)

SUBJECT: VISIT BY UNDER SECRETARY BENSON

1. I GREATLY APPRECIATED RECEIVING YOUR FRANK ADVICE ABOUT THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF MY VISITING SPAIN JULY 1 - 3 FOR BRIEFINGS AND CONSULTATIONS ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.
2. UNFORTUNATELY, THE DAYS JUST BEFORE AND AFTER THE JULY 4 WEEKEND, CORRESPONDING AS THEY DO WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WORK PERIOD, ARE THE ONLY ONES IN THE FORTHCOMING MONTHS WHICH ARE UNENCUMBERED ON MY SCHEDULE AND WHICH COULD AFFORD ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO PUT TOGETHER A LONG OVERDUE FIELD TRIP. THE PROPOSED VISITS TO PORTUGAL AND MOROCCO ARE BOTH DEVELOPING WELL AND THE TRIP ITSELF IS "ON" IN PRINCIPLE EVEN IF SPAIN SHOULD HAVE TO BE

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ELIMINATED.

3. I UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERNS WHETHER KEY SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE NEW SPANISH GOVERNMENT WILL BE IN PLACE AND READ INTO THEIR JOBS BY JULY 1, BUT IT WOULD SEEM THAT IF THEY ARE NOT READY TO RECEIVE ME THEY CANNOT BE OFFENDED IF I DO NOT CALL. WHILE I WOULD FOLLOW YOUR

ADVICE EXACTLY ON THE QUESTION OF CALLING ON SPANISH

OFFICIALS, I DO WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT IT WOULD BE UPON YOU AND THE AMERICAN OFFICIALS AT BOTH JUSMG-MAAG AND TORREJON THAT I WOULD RELY TO BEAR THE BURDEN OF FAMILIARIZING ME WITH US SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND MILITARY PRESENCE IN SPAIN.

4. I DO HOPE, THEREFORE, THAT THE PROPOSED VISIT TO SPAIN CAN BE INCLUDED, RECOGNIZING THAT THE TIMING IS NOT IDEAL AND THAT THE UTILITY MAY CONSEQUENTLY BE SUBSTANTIALLY LESS THAN OPTIMAL. CHRISTOPHER

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